

the chronicle

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LOOTING ARE
HONOURED**
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Care home campaigners have to wait

Campaigners fighting to save a Dudley care home have been told they will have to wait until next July to discover if their battle has been successful.

A decision to shut New Bradley Hall in Kingswinford had been made by the council but protesters have collected more than 5,000 signatures in their fight to keep it open. Last week Dudley Council leader Les Jones announced the decision would be "set aside".

He added a consultation would be held into the effects on elderly residents and families.

The council's cabinet have now voted to approve the consultation but it has emerged that the results are not likely to be collected until July.

Revisited

An Equality Impact Assessment which looked at the way residents would be hit by the closure will be revisited in more depth, and people are being encouraged to submit their views. Councillor Jones said he wanted to make it clear that keeping the home open "is an option" after some councillors expressed concerns that the consultation is a "box-ticking exercise".

He said: "I want to give people the chance to have their say."

But Councillor Tim Crumpton said: "I am worried that this is merely being used as a process that the council has to go through before it can go ahead with shutting the home anyway."

Campaigner Mac Scott, whose 94-year-old mother-in-law Irene Claridge lives at New Bradley Hall, said: "We are pleased with the decision but we shall be looking very seriously at developments in the future."

Under the council's plans, New Bradley Hall, New Bridge House in Cosley and New Swinford Hall in Stourbridge would close their doors by April 2014, while Shenstone House in Halesowen would close in March.

£4.2m cemetery to open next year

A £4.2 million cemetery and crematorium serving the entire Wyre Forest district will open in January after being hit by delays.

The 23-acre site in Minster Road, between Kidderminster and Stourport, was due to open earlier this year. But the scheme was delayed for access work to be completed and for the last plots to be taken at the existing main burial ground in Park Lane. Wyre Forest District Council now says the new site will be officially opened in January.

However, the council says that some services could begin later this month.

These services, both burial and cremation, would take place as and when needed with main operations starting at the site from next month.

Officials from the authority said equipment on the site would be thoroughly checked and that some minor works on the road access still needed to be completed.

The new Minster Road site has been created because space is running out at Park Lane. Plans for the scheme were first approved in 2007.

It has full burial and cremation facilities, including a chapel of rest.

A tree-lined avenue will lead to buildings and landscaped areas featuring wild flowers, grasses, rockeries and a pond with a wooden bridge.

The project has been created by the council in partnership with Dignity PLC and is managed by Parkwood Consultancy Services.

Ex-firefighter found guilty after strangling his wife

HUSBAND IS GIVEN LIFE FOR MURDER

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A retired firefighter who strangled his wife of 44 years because she was going to leave him for his best friend has been jailed for life.

Michael Wathen, aged 67, was found guilty by jurors of murdering his wife Margaret at their marital home in Halesowen and told he must serve a minimum sentence of 12 years.

He attacked the 63-year-old when she phoned her lover Alan Thompson and told him to collect her from the house in Brier Mill Road. She made the call on the same day she and Wathen had been to see a marriage counsellor.

Wathen, who had worked at fire stations in Sandwell and Birmingham, denied murder but admitted manslaughter on the basis he did not intend to kill his wife and he had no control over his actions.

He was convicted by the jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court of murder on Friday. Before sentencing, a letter written by Wathen about his wife, who was known by her middle name of Heather, was read out in court by his barrister Mr Roger Farley QC.

Violence

In it he said: "Heather and I were man and wife and lovers for nearly half a century. I didn't mean to kill her and I will have to live with the remorse, guilt and grief for the rest of my life."

Judge John Warner told Wathen: "Many marriages do break up, that's a feature of human life but mercifully only a minuscule number result in violence."

"The jury have decided you were in full control of your faculties when you strangled her."

The trial had heard the Wathens had been going on holidays with Mr Thompson and his wife June for 20 years.

Dt Insp Simon Astle said: "There are no winners in this case. The Wathen family have tragically lost their mother and sister and they have now lost their father for many years to come."

Tenants celebrate £1.8m facelift

THREE blocks of high rise flats in Halesowen which were found with asbestos have been given a £1.8million makeover in time for Christmas.

Tenants living in the Worcester, Malvern, and Tenbury accommodation in the town celebrated the completion of work which has taken almost two years.

The improvements include high efficiency boilers, remodelled kitchens, bath or shower replacements and redecoration.

Financed by the housing capital programme the project was carried out by Lovell which works with Dudley Council.

Jim Smith, 65, has been a resident at Worcester House for 14 years. "Before they started work my flat was all over the place but the finished result is outstanding," he said.

"Everyone who has worked on this project has done a great job and a big thanks goes out to them, this is the best condition I've even seen the flats, they all look tip top now."

Maureen Evans, 69, who has lived at Malvern House for two decades, said: "All the tenants here agree it has been a big improvement, especially the new boilers."

"I am very pleased with

the work; it was a bit of an upheaval but well worth it." To mark the completion Lovell has presented the tenants with a black and gold letterbox worth £550, which has been placed at the side of Worcester House, in Hill Street.

Belle Vale councillor Jill Nicholls who has supported the project said: "These improvements were very much needed to bring these flats up to the lifetime's homes standard, and



From left Councillor Jill Nicholls, residents Maureen Evans, James Smith and Lola Phillips with Rosie Grant from contractors The Lovell Partnership, celebrate the completion of the refurbishment of flats in Hill Street, Halesowen

some asbestos contained within the core of each block, not accessible to tenants, was also removed.

"Each tenant was decanted into a furnished flat provided by the council for around 10 days whilst work was in progress."

"They are all delighted that these improvements have been completed in time for Christmas."

Car parking burglar gets sent to jail



Sanjay Patel

A thief who parked his car on the driveways of homes in and around Dudley that he burgled has been sentenced to five years in prison.

Sanjay Patel raided homes in Stourbridge and Swindon, South Staffordshire. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how after being disturbed by one homeowner Patel attacked him by throwing a laptop at him and injuring his face.

Miss Jennifer Josephs, prosecuting, said: "Patel targeted a property along Hagley Road, Stourbridge. The homeowner returned at 11am and saw the defendant's car in the driveway. "He was concerned and went inside the house. As he got inside he saw the defendant coming down the stairs with a bag. Patel threw a laptop in his face and then escaped through a bedroom window and drove away."

Miss Josephs said less than an hour later Patel, aged 32, of King Charles Barnes, Telford, drove to a house in Feiashill Road, Swindon.

The homeowner also returned to find Patel's car on the drive and discovered his dining room and lounge windows had been smashed. Miss Josephs told the court Patel managed to escape yet again.

He was later identified by police in Dudley town centre and was arrested.

Mr Daniel White, defending, said: "He knows he only has himself to blame. He is appalled at what he did."

Patel admitted two charges of burglary and he also asked the court to take two other burglaries into consideration relating to burglaries in Chapel Lane and Worcester Lane, both in Stourbridge, in August this year.

Sentencing him to five years, Judge Michael Challinor told Patel: "You have an unenviable record. These are deliberate attacks on houses. If you continue as a career burglar the sentences will simply get longer and longer."

"Stop offending otherwise your life will be spent in prison."

200 homes plan gets full backing

A scheme for more than 200 homes to be built as the next stage of a project to regenerate a Dudley estate has received unanimous backing from councillors.

Proposals for stages two and three of works on the former North Priory estate were approved on Monday night. The council's development control committee took minutes to give the nod.

The 214 properties will be a mix of two, three and four bedroom homes and two bedroom flats.

It forms part of a £37 million to redevelop the estate between Birmingham New Road and Priory Road. Homes have already been built in the first phase.

It will be a 50-50 split between homes for sale and affordable houses to rent and will have the same external appearance as properties which have already been built at the site.

The planning committee were also told an initial objection from the Environment Agency had now been withdrawn. Developers Keepmoat Homes and Bromford Housing are also set to apply to the secretary of state to divert a public right of way in the area to improve access around the site.

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Bravery in the face of looting thugs honoured



Louise Johnson from Wolverhampton with her daughter Jacqueline



Pc Donna Page



Constables Nial Edwards and Scott Clift, from Walsall

Inspirational tales of bravery and resilience in the face of rioting mobs have been celebrated by West Midlands Police.

A total of 145 police officers, volunteers, shopkeepers and residents were honoured for the role they played in bringing the region to order after thugs rampaged through the streets during ugly scenes in August.

A ceremony for the first Police Community Awards was staged in the Grand Hall at the University of Birmingham. Opening the event, Chief Constable Chris Sims said that the awards were in recognition of "real, real acts of defiance in the face of disorder - acts of great courage".

Awards were given to officers who came under fire from yobs who threw bricks, concrete and metal bars, while others were handed to members of communities who rallied together to try to restore calm.

Among the award-winners was Wolverhampton businesswoman Louise Johnson, who was commended for her "extreme bravery". Miss Johnson refused to move from

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outside her hairdressing salon as scores of rioters rampaged down Queen Street, looting stores.

The 52-year-old mother-of-four faced the baying mob with arms outstretched as they threatened to destroy her business and told them: "You are not having my shop."

Pc Donna Page, 40, usually patrols in the Tipton area but was called to Oldbury following outbreaks of disorder on the night of August 9 into 10. At about 2.30am, officers received reports of the Hindu temple coming under attack.

Confronted

They came across a gang of up to 100 people in the middle of the road, having started a fire.

When officers confronted them, the yobs started throwing metal bars at them, along with bricks and lumps of concrete - one of which hit Pc Page in the side, cracking two ribs. She was taken to Sandwell Hospital and, despite the advice of her sergeant, was back on the streets two hours later. "It's just what we all felt we had to do - I couldn't sit there and not help," she said. Pc Scott Clift and Pc Nial

Edwards, from Walsall police, accepted an award of behalf of the entire unit. They were called away from training in Cosford and dispatched to Soho Road in Handsworth where they were confronted by thugs throwing petrol bombs and bricks and setting cars alight.

The officers worked 20-hour shifts throughout the week. "We had to run past burning cars, and were faced with a barricade built by the rioters who started throwing missiles," said Pc Edwards. "We were basically cornered." Pc Clift said: "We just started walking towards them, away from the cars, and luckily they backed off."

Also honoured was Supt Stuart Johnson, from Dudley Police, who acted as silver commander throughout the riots. "I'm a bit embarrassed really - I was just doing my job," he said. Pc Matthew Kidson accepted an award on behalf of the Wolverhampton Response Team, while Ch Insp Sally Seeley and Jackie Harrison were given an award for the work the press office did during that week.

Ch Cons Sims said the rioting "came out of the blue". "But there were some magnificent acts that took place, a resilience in terrible circumstances," he added.

One punch killer is jailed for five years

A barber who killed a father with a single punch as his fiancée and young daughter looked on has been jailed for five years.

Marcus Hutton suffered a fatal blow in the head after he was hit by Delroy Hines following a fracas outside an off licence in Priory Road, Dudley. Mr Hutton, of Priory Road, died in Russells Hall Hospital after being placed on a life support machine following the July 9 attack.

Father-of-four Hines, aged 36, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of 30-year-old Mr Hutton and was sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The court heard Mr Hutton had been returning from a shopping trip with his fiancée Danielle Parkes and their nine-year-old daughter when Hines pulled up in his car.

Mr Hugh O'Brien-Quinn, prosecuting, said: "The defendant got out of the car and something was said or done that caused Mr Hutton to turn around."

He said Mr Hutton had walked over to Hines and they were standing "face to face".

Forceful

"As Mr Hutton walked towards the defendant who bent his knees slightly and threw an extremely forceful punch striking Mr Hutton in the face," he said. "This was the fatal blow," he added.

Hines pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis the victim had approached him aggressively.

He denied having earlier made a wolf whistle.

Last week, the court heard Hines, of Redwood Avenue, Cornall, had 11 previous convictions involving violence. Sentencing Hines, Judge John Warner told him: "No sentence I can pass will take away the grief from Marcus Hutton's family and friends. The loss of life is irreplaceable."

Detective Inspector Simon Astle of West Midlands Police said: Marcus Hutton was 30 at the time of his death and his death was made even more tragic by the fact it was witnessed by his fiancée and young daughter."

Christmas card scheme

A scheme encouraging rugby club members to make a donation to the Midland Air Ambulance instead of sending each other Christmas cards has been relaunched after raising £2,700 in previous years. The Stourbridge Rugby Club has been running the scheme for eight years, with a minimum of £10.

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Disabled man wins negligence payout

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A disabled man who communicates with his eyes has won an undisclosed payout, thought to be in the millions, after he started an investigation into medical negligence during his birth.

Christopher Webb, now aged 29, from Sedgley, was left severely brain damaged after problems during his delivery at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital in 1981.

The High Court has now approved a compensation payout from the strategic health authority NHS West Midlands which will help pay for his ongoing care and treatment.

Mr Edward Bishop QC, representing Mr Webb, told the court he was born by emergency caesarian section in December 1981, after his mother endured a difficult labour.

There were significant delays to the procedure, during which the oxygen supply to the baby's brain dropped, causing catastrophic injuries, said Mr Bishop.

He added Mr Webb was left with cerebral palsy and has since required constant care from his parents, Michael and Anne, and the Queen's Cross Day Centre, Dudley, where he spends a lot of his time.

Speaking

The court heard, after hearing of a similar medical negligence case on TV more than 20 years later, Mr Webb, who has difficulty speaking and so communicates using his eyes, managed to tell his mother what he had discovered for her to look into the issue.

When his medical records were later unearthed, the West Midlands NHS Trust admitted liability for his injuries and issued an apology to Mr Webb and his family.

Approving the settlement, Mr Justice Wyn Williams paid public tribute to the loving care Mr Webb's parents had provided over the years.

The damages settlement comprises a lump sum to compensate Mr Webb for his pain and suffering and past losses.

There will also be annual tax-free payments to cover the costs of his care for the rest of his life. Mr Paul Rees QC, for the trust, said: "Nothing I can say can turn back the clock, but Mr Webb, all his family and in particular his mother and father are entitled to a full and unreserved apology."

NHS West Midlands spokeswoman Norma Harvey said: "Investigations into the events surrounding Mr Webb's delivery led to liability being admitted by West Midlands Strategic Health Authority."

"It was accepted that there was a delay in Mr Webb's delivery which the Strategic Health Authority sincerely regrets. We have apologised to Mr Webb and his family."

"The court has approved a settlement which it is hoped will provide Mr Webb with security for the future."

A trip to the temple



Youngsters and staff from Unicorn day nursery in Tivendale, visit the temple

Young children were given a tour of a Hindu Temple in Tivendale.

More than 30 children at Unicorn Nursery visited Balaji Temple, Dudley Road East as part of a series of trips to places of worship.

The children, aged one to five, were joined by parents and staff for the trip which involved a tour of the building as well as a talk about Hinduism. The visit was organised by school officer Mamta Bargar to introduce the children to different cultures and places of worship.

The 47-year-old said: "The children enjoyed the trip and they listened very well."

She added the next trip would probably be to a Polish place of worship.

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Waterways festival could be expanded

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A popular waterways festival in Dudley which attracts thousands of people could be expanded into several events next year as part of a relaunch.

Staffordshire-based CCEM has recently bought the rights to host the annual Festival of Water and Light after it was cancelled this year.

Bosses at the firm said they were hoping to hold three events throughout next year as part of a bid to expand it. The festival, normally held in October in Brierley Hill, attracts more than 12,000 people.

But boating enthusiasts were left disappointed when this year's event was cancelled due to funding difficulties.

However, CCEM from Tamworth, has agreed to take on full responsibility for all future events after offering a £1 fee to take it on from Dudley Council.

A director at CCEM, Andy Clark-Coates, said they were already working on plans for next year's event.

Summer

"One of the things we have spoken about is expanding the festival to more than just one day.

"We are considering three festivals, one in summer, one in winter and another at some point in the year."

He said they hoped to involve schools and voluntary organisations and to ensure that the event continued to attract people from outside Dudley such as Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire.

"It is an exciting opportunity, we are thrilled to be able to develop the festival for the community and take it into a new chapter," he added.

Bosses will spend the next couple of months working on plans for next year's event and trying to secure sponsorship.

Council chiefs said they shelved this year's event as sponsorship had proved hard to come by and the council couldn't make up the cash difference needed.

They welcomed news that CCEM would be taking on the event from next year.

Time to mow the moustaches



Tracy Clarke with, from bottom left, Gareth Thomas, Ross Currie, headteacher Mike Lambert, Stephen Roden and Andrew Fisher

Staff at a Stourbridge school can finally come clean and shave off their moustaches which they had grown for the past month for charity.

Around 20 teachers at The Wordsley School have been growing moustaches for the charity Movember which supports prostate and testicular cancer. To mark the end of the event - which ran throughout November - the male staff were

joined by their female counterparts who seltaped on a fake moustache to celebrate their fundraising effort. The teachers all collected sponsorship and raised around £250.

Finance manager at the school Jackie Priest said: "I think they are all looking forward to getting rid of their moustaches now the month is over." The school has also recently raised £650 for Children in Need.



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Chuggers may have to carry a permit

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Clipboard-wielding charity representatives may have to carry permits as part of plans announced by Dudley Council to introduce a rule requiring the so-called chuggers – “charity muggers” – to hold a street collection licence.

But the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association, which represents the workers, has objected, saying they do not need a licence because they are not collecting cash.

Instead, they get people to give their addresses and signatures with a pledge to provide a direct debit regular payment.

The association had started pursuing a judicial review against the council but the legal challenge has now been dropped.

Dr Toby Ganley, PFRAs head of policy, said it was instead planning a meeting with the council to agree a way forward.

Announced

He said: “Given that the Office for Civil Society has now announced Lord Hodgson would conduct the review of the Charities Act 2006, which will consider how solicitations of direct debits should be licensed, we believe it is more constructive in the current situation to try to return to dialogue and attempt to persuade Dudley Council that what we can offer in terms of regulating street fundraising will be more effective and more efficient than what they can achieve themselves by relying on anachronistic statute.

“We have recently had a very productive meeting with the licensing officer for Sandwell Council, who is extremely keen to set up a voluntary site agreement with us, while Wolverhampton City Council has re-entered discussions with us regarding a fundraising agreement for Wolverhampton City Council.”

Dudley Council leader Councillor Les Jones said: “Door-to-door collections are required to have a badge and carry a licence.

“In Dudley marketplace there is an arrangement where someone like Sky pays to set up a stall, but then these charity staff stand a few feet away and are grabbing people without having any right to be there.”

Shadowing rock 'n' roll hits



Terry Hill, Peter Harpin and Norman Skinner get ready to rock with Shadows tunes in aid of the Alzheimer's Society

A Black Country rock 'n' roll band will be tuning up for a Alzheimer's Society fundraiser. Out of the Shadows will take to the stage at Kinver Community Centre on December 16 and hope to bring in £800 for the charity.

The band, which plays songs made famous by The Shadows, is made up of friends Norman

Skinner, Terry Hill, Peter Harpin, Bob Brown and Martin Fox. Norman, Terry and Peter are all from Stourbridge and Bob and Martin from Wolverhampton.

Tickets are £5 and available from Norman on 07719 019772 or the society's Emma Dowler on 01384 295355 or the Plough pub, Bridgnorth Road, Wollaston.

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thechronicle

New centres boss appointed

A new town centre manager has been appointed to transform the fortunes of the towns in Wyre Forest.

The district council has created the post to promote and guide future developments in Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley.

Previously only Kidderminster had a town centre manager, on a part-time basis but that post came to an end in May. Peter Michael will take on the role which will see him co-ordinating activities including street markets, cleansing, car parks, marketing and promotion.

Mr Michael said: "The three town centres of Wyre Forest district offer a

diverse range of opportunities for visitors, shoppers and investors.

"I have worked in town centre management for many years and this is an exciting opportunity to establish a new town centre manager role in a very exciting area. I look forward to working with businesses and the communities to improve the offer of the centres."

Councillor John Campion, leader of Wyre Forest District Council, added: "Town centres are hugely important to the economy of Wyre Forest district. Kidderminster town centre provides the highest concentration of jobs in the area with offices, leisure

and shopping activity – it is an important part of the ReWyre Initiative.

"We want to build on successes such as the excellent farmers' market in Bewdley and the Kidderminster Canal Festival to ensure our town centres remain the beating heart of our communities."

The town centre manager appointment follows the emergence of plans to reinvigorate Worcester Street in Kidderminster through the development of a major retail store in and around Bromsgrove Street.

Councillor Julian Phillips, described this development as a "major boost" to the town.

Firm wins Jubilee contract

A Worcestershire company has won a £7 million contract to produce the official medals to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Worcestershire Medal Services of Bromsgrove will mount the 450,000 medals which will be made in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter.

They will be officially launched on February 6 – the anniversary of the Queen's accession.

It is the biggest medals contract that has been put out by the Government since the end of the First World War and was tendered across Europe, with the company successfully beating off competition from the Royal Mint among others.

WMS, which owns the Gladman and Norman factory in Birmingham, joined forces with two other Jewellery Quarter companies – Toye, Kenning and Spencer, and Thomas Fatorini – to compete for the business which is a lucrative contract.

Club helper Val retires aged 72

A volunteer who has run a lunch club for pensioners for 30 years has retired.

Valerie Bordicott has run the Women's Royal Voluntary Services lunch club in Halesowen since 1981. The club runs twice a week at Malt Mill Lane Community Hall.

The 72-year old founded the club while working as a warden for residents at sheltered accommodation schemes run by Dudley Council.

Mrs Bordicott brought down the curtain on her time at the club with a meeting at the same venue she has visited every Tuesday and Thursday for the past three decades.

The mother of four was presented with a bouquet for her efforts. Among her duties, Mrs Bordicott has organised meetings and put on games and activities. She has also organised three outings every year as well as a Christmas meal.

She said: "I was asked to set up a club by Dudley Council when I was a warden but I carried on even when I retired from work 12 years ago because I have just loved it. Mrs Bordicott plans to spend more time looking after her husband Ivor, 84.



Women's Royal Voluntary Services lunch club organiser Valerie Bordicott, who is retiring, with Jim Chapman and other members at Malt Mill Lane Community Hall

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Youths who robbed cars await sentence

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A gang of youths who targeted and stole car stereos from top-of-the-range cars in Dudley and Wolverhampton are now awaiting sentence.

Luke Burns, Adam Dudley and Lee Field struck at dealerships during their spree, and in one case, they smashed the windows of a BMW M3 sports car worth £9,000, leaving it beyond repair.

But the trio were caught when CCTV footage identified them targeting a vehicle at Stratstone Jaguar, in Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

At the city's magistrates court on December 7, prosecutor Mrs Jane Yeomans said a BMW M3 at Stratstone had windows smashed and its boot damaged when it was raided at about 3.15am on November 28.

Dudley and Burns, both 18, and 21-year-old Field, used a crowbar to smash the windows but failed to steal the stereo from the vehicle. They were arrested after police were alerted by CCTV operatives.

The court heard all three had a previous conviction for interfering with vehicles on August 4. They all admitted attempting to steal from a motor vehicle and were bailed pending sentencing.

Offence
Meanwhile, Dudley, of The Broadway, Stourbridge, and Field, of Cheyne Walk, Brierley Hill, have also been convicted of attempting to steal a stereo from a car at Steve Smith Motors, Church Road, Netherton on Saturday. They will be sentenced for that offence and the one at Stratstone at Dudley Magistrates Court on January 3.

Burns, of Turney Road, Stourbridge, will be sentenced by magistrates in Wolverhampton this week.
Mr Jason Patel, for Burns, said he had shown "remorse". But chairman of the bench Mr Richard Jervis told the teenager he needed to think about the meaning of remorse after witnessing the youth smirking during the hearing.

He said: "The difficulty we have is you went with friends nicking stuff from other people's property."

Drugs flat is shut down



Pcs Craig Ryder and Sean Corrigan near the flat in Watsons Close, Kates Hill

A flat in Dudley which was being used as a drugs den has been boarded up following a police raid.

Syringes, burned tin foil and other drug paraphernalia was found in the property, at 5 Watsons Close, Kates Hill, following the raid. The flat will remain boarded up for at least three months after officers successfully applied for a closure order from Dudley Magistrates Court. The 37-year-old occupant of the address was taken away by Dudley Police's neighbour-

hood team. Dudley Council said it was now seeking a possession order for the man to be permanently evicted.

Tip offs from residents led officers to the address after they stepped up patrols around the area in the past 12 months. Pc Sean Corrigan, of the St Thomas's neighbourhood team, said: "We had received excellent intelligence from the local community."

"When we raided the property, we found evidence of large-scale drug use."

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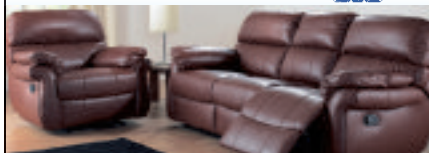
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thechronicle

Mother, 30, left pet rabbits in filthy hutches

A mother from Dudley left five of her pet rabbits with little food and in filthy hutches while she moved house, a court was told.

Sara Davis, aged 30, also failed to take two of the animals to the vets despite them having a severe case of ear mites and one being seriously underweight. RSPCA officers were tipped off by people who had bought two other rabbits from Davis.

Both animals were found to be seriously ill and one had later died, the hearing at Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

Davis, of Bent Street, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and two of failing to ensure the welfare of the animals.

Magistrates adjourned the case until January 9 for a report to be completed.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said an officer went to Davis' former address in Cradley Heath after the complaints had been made.

"The officer spoke with neighbours who said the owners of the animals had moved away and had seemed to leave them behind," she said.

"The officer was able to see into the garden of the house where the animals were being kept in hutches."

Mrs Sutton said there was little food or water for the animals and all the hutches were in a filthy condition.

The animals were removed and taken to a vet.

Mrs Sutton said officers eventually quizzed Davis.

"Davis said she had been moving out at the time but had returned to check on the animals every day. She told officers she knew the hutches were messy and had meant to clean them out but this had slipped because of the move and because her youngest son had been ill." The court heard Davis also had 10 cats and 11 rabbits in total.

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Sebastian the "bionic" cat who has been brought back from the brink of death with vet Mark Barton and grateful owners Patison Harrigan and Katrin Toots

Sebastian the "bionic" cat is almost as good as new after being brought back from the brink of death when he fell from a fourth floor window at his West Midlands home.

The 22-month-old tabby is believed to have jumped through a window to chase a passing bird when he plummeted to the ground around 40ft below his owners' flat, leaving him with three badly broken legs and internal damage.

But, thanks to the skill of staff at manor Vets in Kent Road, Halesowen, Sebastian is now well on the mend.

His relieved owner, Katrin Toots, who lives with her partner Patison Harrigan, aged 28, in Hagley Road, Edgbaston, said: "It's amazing that he has come through it and we can't thank the vets enough for saving his life."

The RSPCA feared the worst after passersby found Sebastian bruised and broken, struggling to breathe, on the pavement three months ago.

Sebastian underwent extensive orthopaedic surgery, with metal supports being inserted to repair his broken bones and pins placed into his bones.

Spate of fuel thefts at service stations

Petrol stations in Halesowen are being targeted by thieves who fill up their tanks and drive off without paying, police say. Police said there had been a spate of thefts at service stations in Halesowen during the past week and an investigation has now been launched.

Two thefts happened at the BP Connect service station in Stourbridge Road at 6.15pm on December 3.

Both of the cars involved were displaying number plates that had been stolen from vehicles parked on the Showcase Cinema car park in Dudley earlier in the day. The first vehicle was a black Corsa which was bearing the stolen number plate WK57 BWJ and the second was a red Corsa with a false plate showing MK06 OGF.

Police said the driver of the black vehicle had taken £59 of diesel without paying, and the red vehicle's driver took £60 worth of unleaded fuel. Another theft happened at the BP Shortcross service station in Halesowen at 5.45pm on December 1.

A man driving a yellow Cabriolet Mini Cooper with the number plate PH03 LJH took £56 worth of diesel and drove off without making payment. The thief is described as a tall Asian man, wearing dark jeans and a leather-style zip-up jacket.

Anyone with information about any of the thefts should call Halesowen police station on 0345 113 5000.

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£10,000 cycle lane 'a waste of money'

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A "cycle lane to nowhere" that cost a cash-strapped Dudley Council £10,000 has been branded a waste of money. The route, which covers just 150ft in Envile Street, Stourbridge, leads into the town centre, where cycling is banned.

It is claimed it encourages cyclists to switch lanes across the busy carriageway towards the town's ring road. Russell Eden, chairman of Stourbridge Bicycle Users' Group, has called the lane "a complete and utter extravagance that is never used and never will be used".

The lane is designed to provide a safe route from Wollaston into the town centre.

But Mr Eden says it is a road that experienced cyclists would usually avoid as it is too dangerous.

The route ends at the subway in Bell Street with a sign telling cyclists to dismount.

Mr Eden said: "What is the point in following this when you find yourself unable to ride your bike at the end of it?"

Nowhere

"It is a cycle lane to nowhere, and when the work starts building a new Tesco at the Crown Centre it will be a cycle lane on to a building site."

"There are much better things the council could spend its money on than this."

He said the user group was asked about the plans for the lane earlier this year and advised the council that it was not needed.

"They carried on regardless, though," Mr Eden added.

"It is a case of carrying out a consultation but not listening to the responses," he said.

Councillor Patrick Harley, said: "The cycle path is part of Dudley Council's ongoing work to improve access by sustainable modes of transport."

"It was implemented using nationally recognised engineering measures and is compliant with safety guidelines."

"We have received no official complaints on the cycle path and no incidents have been reported."

"I have invited cycling groups and their representatives to meet with me to discuss any concerns they may have, but I have not yet received any response."

Sister act celebrating



Sisters Alexia Bates, aged 10, and Raven Street, 15, celebrate

Two sisters enjoyed their time in the spotlight as they wowed the judges in a Midlands beauty pageant. Alexia Bates, aged 10, won the Miss Tiara UK contest and her sister, Raven Street, 15, finished second. They each took part in rounds which included different outfits and demonstrating a talent. Alexia, a pupil at St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Dudley, performed a three-minute cheerleading routine while Raven, who attends St Paul's School for Girls, Edgbaston, read her own poetry.

The pair, of Shaw Road, Dudley, also entered the Little Miss Community Birmingham contest earlier this year. Alexia finished first while Raven was second in the senior version.

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Santas get their festive feet flying for hospice



Red for go – some of the hundreds of people who dressed as Santas get ready to take part in the event

Hundreds of fundraisers dressed in Santa outfits took part in a festive charity fun run in Stourbridge for a Black Country hospice.

Families, work colleagues and friends joined together to take part in the annual Santa Jog to raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

Everyone lined up for a much-needed warm-up with a fitness instructor as they hope, skipped and danced to keep out the cold before the off yesterday morning. Cries of "ho, ho, ho!" were heard as the Santas started on the 5k run around of Mary Stevens Park, in Heath Lane, Stourbridge, in a bid to raise thousands for the hospice.

Around 700 Santas took part – beating last year's total of 500 – and organisers hope to have raised more

than £12,000 once the money has been collected.

Among those taking part were a group of staff from Windsor High School, in Halesowen. They were remembering receptionist Kim Ralph who died in May after suffering from a brain tumour.

Tribute

She had spent time at Mary Stevens Hospice before she passed away and her colleagues said it would be a fitting tribute to try and raise money for the Hagley Road centre.

Group organiser and school administrator Sue Cooper, aged 41, of High Farm Road, Halesowen, said: "She is really missed by everyone and she was a good friend to us all.

"We just thought that it would be a nice thing to do as she was looked after at the hospice.

"It's been cold so we have wrapped

up a bit but there are quite a few of us taking part so we can keep going.

Joining in the fun and jogging around to keep warm before the start were Chris Walters and his wife Sally with their son Thomas, eight, and six-year-old daughter Amy.

Alexander Heath, 39, had brought his 11-month-old son Maximus wrapped up well to take part in the event. The pair were decked out in their Santa costumes with Alexander even donning a woolly beard in a bid to keep out the cold during the morning.

"It is quite a sight but at least the weather has stayed dry for it," said Mr Heath, of Cathcart Road, Stourbridge.

Stourbridge councillor Nic Barlow helped out marshalling on the day and said: "It's great to see everyone dressed up like this getting into the spirit of the event.

"It's a good turnout and it shows the strength of support for the hospice."



Chris and Sally Walters with son Thomas Walters, aged eight, and six-year-old daughter Amy Walters



Alexander Heath, of Stourbridge, with son Maximus Heath, aged 11 months, at the festive charity run



Top, Gareth Hatton of Halesowen with Bobbie Taylor, left, Natalie Outfield, right and Jack Taylor, all of Dudley



Windsor High School's team including, front left, Linda Harper of Brierley Hill, and Sue Cooper of Halesowen

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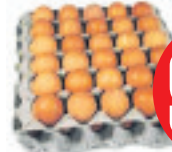
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REVIEWS

thechronicle

Talent takes your Seth away

Seth Lakeman, The Robin2, Bilston

You will be hard pressed to find anyone on the folk circuit more talented or versatile than Seth Lakeman.

His skill with a violin is awesome and it wouldn't be overstating it to put him on the same footing as Nigel Kennedy, Andre Rieu, Stephane Grappelli and John Sheahan of The Dubliners.

Add to this his incredible competence with the banjo, acoustic guitar, bouzouki and mandolin along with his strong, emotional voice and you have a folk-rock singer who deserves all the

accolades he receives. The Devon musician moved between heavier folk-rock to atmospheric ballads such as Changes to traditional folk and hoe downs with consummate ease much to the appreciation of the packed Robin audience.

From his first song More Than Money, inspired by the men who mined granite – a track from his sixth album Tales from the Barrel House, Lakeman had his fans in his thrall.

Much of his music is dedicated to the loss of traditional skills such as the Blacksmith's Prayer a lament for the

disappearing craft and Hard Road which tells the sorry story of people thrown out of work when a factory closes and has a deep resonance in these dark days of recession.

There are myriad influences which can be heard in his work which are wonderfully expressed by him and his group including blue grass, such as in The Sender and The Artisan which are accented by his rasping fiddle playing, along with blues and more traditional folk rifts such as Salt From Our Veins which are just sheer magic to listen to.

Danny Farragher

Example, O2 Academy

The O2 Academy just wasn't big enough for the sellout crowd that turned up to see chart-topper Example.

But even though the audience was packed tighter than a tin of sardines, as soon as he pounded on to the stage the claustrophobia was forgotten, the hundreds of fans started jumping and didn't stop until the lights went up and the music stopped.

Backed by a live band, he certainly led by example and put many other artists to shame with his high-energy and faultless performance.

The crowd, featuring a surprising range of ages, raised the roof of the Academy to recite word for word all of his tracks which included his first chart topper, Watch the Sun Come Up, and more recent hit Changed the Way You Kissed Me.

Judging by the reception it was clear to see why the latter was voted the hottest record in the world earlier this year.

A swarm of stewards were on hand to keep things under control as crowd surfers made their way across the venue.

Everyone clearly fed off Example's enthusiasm and even the scramble for air at the end was filled with fans still singing his catchy lyrics.

Sarah Hazelwood

Grease, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

There were probably more Pink Ladies in the audience than on the stage at the New Alexandra Theatre production of Grease. Dressed in shiny blouses and pink scarves, they filled the front rows and were determined to have a good time as they sang and jiggled along to all those very familiar tunes. Their enjoyment was shared by the rest of the audience at the packed theatre. This young cast brought all the thrills excitement, fun and fantastic music of this show to life. It was time to dust off those leather jackets, slick back your hair, pull on your bobby-socks and watch as bad boy Danny and sweet Sandy fall in love all over again.

It's the original High-School musical, featuring all the unforgettable songs including You're the One That I Want, Grease is the Word, Summer Nights, Hopelessly Devoted To You, Sandy, Greased Lightnin' and many more.

The hand jive sequence was excellent and there were strong performances from the leads Danny (Danny Bayne) and Sandy (Carina Gillespie) who did indeed look very Olivia Newton Johnish in those tight black trousers. And anyone who thought ice skating champion Robin Cousins could not cut ice as a singer was mistaken. This show runs until December 31 and right now is a real pre-Christmas treat.

Sue Attwater

Docs mark 20 years of rousing music

The Saw Doctors, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

The Galway gang were back in Wolverhampton for what has almost become an annual ritual.

The boys who come all the way from Tuam, otherwise known as The Saw Doctors, are celebrating 20 years of rousing audiences around the world and show little sign of slowing down.

In fact frontman Davy Carton was so eager to get on stage he came on as a cameo backing singer for the support act.

The Docs hit their fans between the eyes right from the off with Will It Never Stop Raining? and from then

on Davy and fellow frontman Leo Moran fed the eager crowd what they wanted for the next two hours.

All the familiar stuff was there Tommy K, To Win Just Once, Never Mind the Strangers and Why Don't We Share the Darkness?

With extended versions of two of their best known anthems Green and Red of Mayo and Clare Island Leo got the chance to show what a fantastic and expert guitarist he is.

He knows how to work a crowd and such is the atmosphere he, Davy and the rest of the band create it's hard to tell sometimes who is entertaining whom. They of course gave the rendi-

tion of their latest single Downtown, the hit made famous by Petula Clark, in which Davy does a laudable stand-in for her.

There were tracks from their latest album the Further Adventures Of... which included Indian Summer and Friday Town.

The group never let up and were cheered back on stage for the encore which included Bless Me Father, What She Said Last Night and of course the one song that has become their signature tune N17. Here's looking forward to next year's pilgrimage and long may it continue.

Danny Farragher

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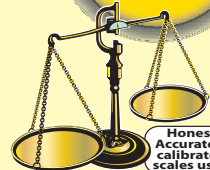
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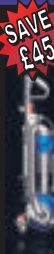
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Get ready to rock at the arena

THERE'S still a little time to find some tickets for Birmingham's biggest Christmas party.

Rock With Laughter is on at the LG Arena on both Friday and Saturday nights this weekend, and promises a night of festive fun with top class comedy and music, set to get you laughing all the way to Christmas.

This year, the show is hosted by Graham Norton – the staple of Friday and Saturday night television.

Graham welcomes comedians Jimmy Carr, Dara O'Brian and Sarah Millican, who are bringing their infamous stand-up routines to the show.

Joining the comedy will be Marti Pellow who is due to sing hit singles from his illustrious career, and award-winning Gabrielle famed for hits such as Dreams, Give Me A Little More Time and Out of Reach.

Also adding to the musical line-up will be pop-art icons 10cc whose most famous songs include I'm Not In Love and Dreadlock Holiday.

Rock With Laughter is the ultimate festive night out, perfect for couples, friends and work colleagues getting into the Christmas spirit.

It is on tomorrow and Saturday night at the LG Arena in Birmingham. Tickets are priced from £22.50 to £37.50.

For availability call 0844 338 8000.

Jools in the right key with his rhythm and blues



Jools Holland

THE undisputed King of boogie-woogie, Jools Holland, is back at the NIA this weekend with his infamous Rhythm & Blues Orchestra.

The music maestro aims to impress audiences when he performs tracks spanning his entire solo career, many of which can be

found on his latest album release Finding The Keys: The Best Of Jools Holland, which was released recently.

Jools will be joined on stage by a range of special guests including pop icon Sandie Shaw, who is best-known for hits including Puppet on

a String, Long Live Love and (There's) Always Something There to Remind Me.

Shaw will provide guest vocals alongside double Ivor Novello-winning musician Chris Difford.

Difford wrote some of Squeeze's biggest hits including Up The Junc-

tion, Cool For Cats and Labelled With Love, and has celebrity admirers such as Lily Allen and Mark Ronson.

Jools is at the The NIA on Saturday night from 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £34.50. For availability call 0844 338 8000

How Lynda's all set to have a ball in Cinders

IF LYNDA Bellingham has one Christmas wish, it is probably this: That people switch off from the X Factor this Christmas in favour of a live show.

The actress wants more people to use provincial theatres like Wolverhampton's Grand and Birmingham's Hippodrome.

She's played each numerous times, featuring in hit productions such as Calendar Girls, and is looking forward to returning to the West Midlands this weekend.

Birmingham Hippodrome will raise the curtain on its festive pantomime, Cinderella, tomorrow. It will run until January 29.

The action-packed production will feature Bellingham as the Fairy Godmother alongside Brian Conley, as Buttons, and Basil Brush, as, ahem, Basil Brush. Boom Boom!

Bellingham says: "During our recent tour of Calendar Girls, we visited every old theatre in the country. It feels very melancholic because these days so many people tune into the X Factor, instead of supporting their local theatre."



Brian Conley stars alongside Lynda Bellingham in the Hippodrome's pantomime Cinderella

Bellingham, who is perhaps best-known for playing the mother in the 1980s Oxo adverts, is optimistic about the future for venues like the Grand

and the Hippodrome.

"They show productions that are real, that are not tainted by spin or air-brushing or media hype or manipulation," she

says. "Theatre is all about slices of life that you don't always get to experience and I think that will always survive."

Though Bellingham is a

veteran of the stage, she's busier than ever.

In addition to plenty of theatre work, she continues to make regular appearances on TV's Loose Women and has also been commissioned to write two novels.

Brian Conley, meanwhile, is making a return to the Hippodrome following four record-breaking previous panto appearances.

Superb

Hippodrome spokeswoman Mandy Rose said: "The most popular pantomime of them all, Cinderella, will be brought magically to life by a superb cast, an abundance of comedy, stunning sets and costumes and fabulous special effects."

On stage Conley has starred in the West End and in the touring productions of Hairspray and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, both of which he played at Birmingham Hippodrome. He recently toured the UK in Brother Love's Travelling Salvation.

Tickets are available from www.birminghamhippodrome.com. For more information call 0844 338 5050.

Hippodrome highlights for 2012 season

A PERFORMANCE from Britain's Got Talent star Susan Boyle, Sister Act and Dirty Dancing are among the highlights of the 2012 season at Birmingham Hippodrome.

Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!, Cameron Mackintosh's new production of the Lionel Bart classic Oliver! starring Neil Morrissey and Brian Conley and much-loved musical Blood Brothers will also be at the venue during the year.

Nutcracker! runs from February 7 to 11, Oliver! from March 13 to April 21 and Blood Brothers from October 22 to November 3.

The brand new musical I Dreamed a Dream featuring Susan Boyle runs from May 29 to June 2, while Sister Act will take to the stage from October 9 to 20.

A production of Dirty Dancing is at the venue from July 4 to August 25, and the International Dance Festival Birmingham brings a spectacular range of international dance companies to the city.

Stand-up comic Dara O'Brian will be on stage on April 27 and 28 while comedian Kevin Bridges visits the Hippodrome on November 11.

Stuart Griffiths, chief executive at the Hippodrome, said: "It's definitely full steam ahead at Birmingham Hippodrome as we look forward to a packed 2012. Next year we'll also be very focussed on our Stage Appeal. We need to raise over £1 million towards the cost of replacing our 30-year-old stage."

For this stage work, the theatre will close for four weeks following the summer season and will reopen with Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn season. Visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com for details.



Susan Boyle

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9.00-4.00(ish)

Christmas Day CLOSED

Monday 26th December CLOSED

Friday 30th December 9.00-5.00

Saturday 31st December

9.00-4.00(ish)

Monday 2nd January CLOSED

Normal times resume on

Friday 6th January

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Saturday 24th Dec: 9:00-4:00

Christmas Day: Closed

Tuesday 27th Dec: Closed

Wednesday 28th Dec: 9:00-5:00

Thursday 29th Dec: 9:00-4:00

Friday 30th Dec: 9:00-5:00

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6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Home Cooking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** British Olympic Dreams. **1.30** Equestrian. **2.25** Bargain Hunt Famous Finds. (R) **2.55** Film: Who Framed Roger Rabbit. (1988) Comedy mixing live action and animation, starring Bob Hoskins. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** A Question of Sport. (R)

6.00 Winter Wipeout. **7.00** Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the grand final live from the Blackpool Tower Ballroom, where the three remaining couples vie for the glitterball trophy with an array of routines.

8.10 Merlin. Part one of two. Morgana and her army strike, forcing Arthur to go on the run.

8.55 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. **9.05** Strictly Come Dancing Final - The Results. This year's champions are revealed, and Jessie J performs. Last in the series.

10.15 BBC News; Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Newcastle United v Swansea City; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Film: Bat'21. (1988) Vietnam War drama, starring Gene Hackman. **2.50** Weatherview. **2.55** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **11.45** Film: The Preacher's Wife. (1996) Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. **1.40** Film: Splash! (1984) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah. **3.25** Flog It! **4.25** One Man and His Dog. **5.05** Film: Triple Cross. (1966) Second World War spy adventure, with Christopher Plummer.



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7.05 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May take a road trip through Vietnam, travelling the length of the country in just eight days. But first, they have to buy some transport. (R)

8.20 Dad's Army. Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gets crashed a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.00 FILM: Defiance. (2008) Premiere. Second World War drama, with Daniel Craig and Jamie Bell.

11.05 Top of the Pops 2: Christmas Special 2010. Archive performances by Slade, the Pogues and Abba. (R)

12.35 Film: The Gorgon. (1964) Hammer horror, starring Peter Cushing. **1.55** BBC News. **2.40** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** Coronation Street. **11.45** This Morning: Saturday. **12.40** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** Countrywise Kitchen: Stocking the Winter Larder. (R) **1.15** Film: About a Boy. (2002) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Toni Collette. **3.10** Film: Death Becomes Her. (1992) Black comedy fantasy, starring Goldie Hawn and Meryl Streep. **5.00** Regional Programmes. **5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.35** New You've Been Framed: The Next Generation.

6.35 FILM: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) Fantasy adventure sequel, with Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Gary Oldman.

9.05 Westlife: For the Last Time. The boys perform their greatest hits in a farewell special.

10.05 FILM: The Boat That Rocked. (2009) Premiere. Comedy, starring Bill Nighy, Rhys Ifans and Philip Seymour Hoffman.



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11.10 ITV News; Weather. **11.25** FILM: The Boat That Rocked. (2009) Premiere. Concluded.

12.50 The Zone. Interactive shopping and gaming; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** Kojak. TV news tracks a professional assassin. (R) **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.00 Sali Mail. (R) **6.05** The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** The Hoobs. (R) **6.55** Channel 4 Presents - Oscar Pistorius 'Head Strong' (R) **7.00** Sailing. (R) **7.25** The Med Cup 2011. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: The Holyoaks Music Show: Christmas Special. **9.55** T4: T4 Stars of 2011: The Unseen Bits. **10.45** T4: Sunday Brunch: Saturday Starter. **11.05** T4: Real Stories: Jennifer Lopez. **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.15** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.50** Channel 4 Racing. **3.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Come Dine with Me. Film student Dennis Keighon-Foster hosts the final dinner party in Manchester. (R)

6.25 Channel 4 News. **6.55** 4thought.tv.



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7.00 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross. A countdown of the nation's favourite games and playthings. (R)

10.00 Catherine Tate: Laughing at the Noughties. A look back at the decade's comedy.

12.05 Film: The Omen. (1976) Horror, starring Gregory Peck, Lee Remick and Patrick Troughton. **2.10** Film: The Rocker. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, starring Raimi Wilson. **3.50** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.40** Brothers & Sisters. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Winnie the Pooh - Climb a Tree. **10.05** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.25** Justin Bieber: The Making of Under the Mistletoe. **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.45** Film: Eloise at the Plaza. (2003) Premiere. Children's adventure, starring Julie Andrews. **1.30** Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: The Art of Skiing. **1.35** Film: Snow. (2004) Premiere. Christmas comedy, starring Tom Cavanagh. **3.25** Film: Mrs Miracle. (2009) Family drama, with Doris Roberts. **5.15** Film: A Christmas Carol. (1999) Dickens' classic ghost story, starring Patrick Stewart.

7.15 5 News Weekend. **7.20** NCIS. As Christmas approaches, the team works overtime to solve a robbery - a case made doubly difficult by the fact that the prime suspect has supposedly been dead for 17 years. (R)

8.10 NCIS. A Marine is found murdered in woodlands after changing his religious persuasion, and the detectives believe he could have been the victim of a hate crime. (R)

9.10 The Mentalist. The CBI investigates the murder of a Santa Claus impersonator. (R)

10.00 CSI: NY. A deaf woman is murdered. (R)

10.55 CSI: NY. A former drug addict is murdered. (R)

11.50 Inside Hollywood.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.55** Great Artists. (R) **4.20** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Ham's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
3.00 The Xtra Factor: Caroline and Olly's Best and Worst. **4.00** The Xtra Factor: Kelly's Best and Worst. **5.00** The Xtra Factor: Louis' Best and Worst. **6.00** The Xtra Factor: Tullisa's Best and Worst. **7.00** The Xtra Factor: Gary's Best and Worst. **8.00** The Xtra Factor: Winner's Story. **2011** 9.00 Film: Forgetting Sarah Marshall. **11.15** Amy Winehouse: Her Life and Legacy

ITV3
1.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot. **4.05** Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner. (1985) **5.55** Lewis. **8.00** Doc Martin. **9.00** Foyle's War. **11.00** Murder in Suburbia

ITV4
3.10 Film: The Alamo. (1960) **6.10** Film: Rio Bravo. (1959) Western, with John Wayne and Dean Martin. **9.00** Film: The Dirty Dozen. (1967)

BBC THREE
7.00 Doctor Who. **8.15** Wallace & Gromit's Cracking Contraptions. **8.20** Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. **8.55** Film: Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas. (1993) **10.05** Russell Howard's Good News Extra. **10.50** Family Guy. **11.35** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 Sacred Music: A Christmas History. **8.00** Timeshift: Of Ice and Men. **9.00** The Killing. **11.00** Film: American. The Bill Hicks Story. (2010)

E4
3.25 Desperate Scousewives. **4.30** Film: Scrooged. (1988) **6.30** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** Happy Endings. **8.00** How I Met Your Mother. **8.30** The Big Bang Theory. **9.00** Film: Die Hard 4.0. (2007) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
2.40 Saboteur. (1942) **4.50** The Cat Returns. (2002) **6.25** Star Trek: The Motion Picture. (1979) **9.00** Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. (1982) **11.10** Star Trek III: The Search for Spock. (1984)

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6.00 Breakfast **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Brian Blessed. **11.00** Country Tracks: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** Match of the Day Live. Portsmouth v Southampton (Kick-off 1.00pm). **3.05** Bargain Hunt Famous Finds. (R) **3.35** Cash in the Celebrity Attic. (R) **4.20** Lifestyle. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Lost Christmas.

7.00 Countryfile. A traditional country village Christmas in Warwickshire.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce looks back at a selection of 2011's most memorable finds, including a Victorian brooch designed by William Burges that was previously believed to be lost.

9.00 Young James Herriot. New series. Drama following James Herriot's days at Glasgow Veterinary College in the 1930s.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Take That: Progress Live. Highlights from the group's concerts at the City of Manchester Stadium.

11.45 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Extended edition, with guests Nick Hewer and Jack Whitehall. (R)

12.25 Weatherview. **12.30** Sign Zone: Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman. (R) **1.10** Holby City. (R) **2.10** Bible's Buried Secrets. (R) **3.10** MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) **3.40** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Twelve Days of Christmas. (R) **12.30** Flog It! (R) **1.00** EastEnders. **3.00** Live Equestrian. **5.05** Antiques Road Trip. (R) **5.50** Great British Railway Journeys. (R)



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6.20 Celebrity Eggheads. Former footballers Frank Worthington, Alan Kennedy, Kerry Dixon, Alan Rough and Tony Currie take on the expert quizzers.

6.50 Top Gear. Festive edition from 2010. (R)

8.00 James May's Man Lab Xmas Special. How to make it snow and using a gun to decorate the tree.

9.00 A Night with the Stars. Professor Brian Cox explores challenging concepts in physics.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Manchester City v Arsenal. With analysis by Lee Dixon and Alan Hansen.

11.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Rhod Gilbert, Jimmy Osmond, Tom Parker, Caroline Flack and Charlie Baker. (R)

12.00 Life's Too Short. (R) **12.30** Film: Secret Santa. (2003) Family drama, starring Jennie Garth, Steven Eckholdt and Charles Robinson. **1.55** BBC News.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** Monk. (R) **9.30** Horrid Henry. (R) **9.45** Planet Sketch. (R) **9.50** Film: The NeverEnding Story. (1984) Fantasy, with Barret Oliver. **11.30** Film: A Cinderella Story. (2004) Comedy, with Hilary Duff. **1.10** ITV News; Weather. **1.15** Film: Jack Frost. (1998) Fantasy, with Michael Keaton. **3.05** Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical, with Gene Wilder. **5.00** All Star Family Fortunes Christmas Special. (R) **5.45** Regional Programmes.

6.00 ITV News: Weather. **6.15** Odd One In. Festive edition, with Carol Vorderman and Mark Watson.

7.00 Just Henry. One-off drama set in post-Second World War Britain, based on the novel by Michelle Magorian, the writer of Goodnight Mister Tom. Henry's life has not been easy. Josh Bolt and Dean Andrews star.

9.00 Michael Buble: Home for Christmas. The Canadian crooner performs classic festive songs.

10.30 ITV News: Weather. **10.45** FILM: Ocean's Twelve. (2004) Comedy, with George Clooney.



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1.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.05** Motorsport UK. **3.05** Kojak. (R) **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Survival of the Fittest. **8.00** T4: One Tree Hill. (R) **8.45** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.15** T4: Sunday Brunch. **12.05** T4: Cee Lo Takes the UK: Christmas with All the Goodies. **12.20** T4: Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows - T4 Movie Special. **12.40** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.10** T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. **2.10** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.45** Film: A Christmas Carol: The Musical. (2004) Dickens musical, starring Kelsey Grammer. **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45** The Political Slot. **5.50** Film: Fred Claus. (2007) Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, Rachel Weisz, Miranda Richardson and Kevin Spacey.

8.00 Home for the Holidays. New series. Live big-money entertainment show, hosted by Vernon Kay.



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9.00 Black Mirror: The Entire History of You. Horror, written by Peep Show co-creator Jesse Armstrong. Last in the series.

10.00 FILM: Bruno. (2009) Premiere. Spoof documentary, with Sacha Baron Cohen and Clifford Banagale.

11.35 FILM: Carrie. (1976) Horror, starring Sissy Spacek.

12.5 American Football Live. **5.00** Freeports on 4. **5.25** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. **6.55** Igan Ogam. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** The Milkshake! Show. **7.35** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Funky Valley. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Winnie the Pooh - Eeyore's Tail. **10.05** ThunderCats. **11.05** Andre Rieu: Live in Concert. (R) **11.50** Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads. (R) **12.50** Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Donald Duck - Winter Storage. **1.00** Film: Scrooge - A Christmas Carol. (1951) **2.45** Film: A Grandpa for Christmas. (2007) **4.25** Film: Mrs Miracle 2: Miracle in Manhattan. (2010)

6.10 FILM: Our First Christmas. (2008) Family drama, starring Julie Warner.

7.55 5 News Weekend. **8.00** FILM: Hancock. (2008) Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith.

10.00 FILM: Renegade Justice. (2007) Thriller, with Steven Seagal.

11.45 Indiana Jones: The True Story. (R)

12.50 SuperCasino. **4.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **4.10** UEFA Europa League Football. **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 **3.30** The Planet's Funniest Animals **4.00** The Xtra Factor: Winner's Story 2011 **5.00** Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium. (2007) **7.00** Super Tiny Animals **8.00** Film: Gremlins (1984). Comedy horror, with Zach Galligan, Phoebe Cates, Hoyt Axton and Polly Holliday. Includes FYI Daily. **10.15** Film: Deep Blue Sea (1999). Thriller, starring Saffron Burrows and Samuel L Jackson. Includes FYI Daily.

ITV3 **4.40** Foyle's War **6.45** Film: City of Angels (1998). Romantic fantasy, starring Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan. **9.00** Lewis. A university don is implicated in a murder. **11.00** Film: Mystic River (2003). Oscar-winning drama, starring Sean Penn and Tim Robbins.

ITV4 **1.10** Film: The Alamo (1960) **4.10** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **7.00** Film: The 'Burbs (1989) Black comedy, starring Tom Hanks. **9.00** Film: Last Man Standing (1996) **11.00** Film: The Dirty Dozen (1967)

BBC THREE **7.00** Film: Cars (2006) **8.50** Great TV Mistakes **9.00** Gavin & Stacey **10.00** American Dad! **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** Him & Her

BBC FOUR **7.00** Churches: How to Read Them **7.30** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse **9.00** The Roasts of Christmas Past **10.00** The Space Shuttle: A Horizon Guide **11.00** Imagine: Alan Ayckbourn - Greetings from Scarborough

E4 **5.00** Sorority Girls **6.05** Scrubs **7.00** Film: The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **9.00** Rude Tube: Utter Pranks **10.00** Misfits **11.05** Tool Academy

FILM4 **2.45** Carry On Teacher (1959) **4.25** Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) **6.35** Stardust (2007) **9.00** Star Trek (2009) **11.20** The Hills Have Eyes (2006)

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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rip Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. (R) 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.30 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. 4.30 Fog It! (R) 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out England; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport Christmas Special. Guests include Jake Humphrey and Alistair McGowan. 9.00 Young James Herriot. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Imagine: The Art of Stand-Up. 11.45 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.30 Weatherview. 12.35 Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 1.35 World's Most Dangerous Roads. 2.35 MasterChef: The Professionals. 3.35 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.20 Film: Space Camp. (1986) 11.00 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best at Christmas. (R) 12.00 Restoration Home. (R) 1.00 Equestrian. 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.30 Film: Merrill's Marauders. (1962) 4.05 Coast. (R) 5.05 Watching the Wild. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.00 Celebrity Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) 7.30 Christmas University Challenge. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff. 9.30 The Rob Brydon Show Xmas Special. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. 10.30 The Funny Side of Christmas. (R) 11.30 QI. (R) 12.00 Rev. (R) 12.30 Grumpy Guide to Driving. (R) 1.00 Film: The Big Heat. (1953) 2.30 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show: Five Days of Christmas. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Countrywide Kitchen at Christmas. 8.30 Live Entertainment: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Christmas Special. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. 10.30 Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Dave. (1993) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Perfect Couples. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.50 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Frasier. (R) 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 Film: The Muppets Take Manhattan. (1984) 1.40 Film: Toys. (1992) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Christmas. 5.30 Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Year the Earth Went Wild. 9.00 King of Christmas Lights. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Syria's Torture Machine. 12.05 Film: Rosemary's Baby. (1968) 2.30 Film: The Conformist. (1970) 4.25 Drifting. (R) 4.35 World War II: The Last Heroes. (R) 5.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Christmas: Winnie the Pooh - Stout and Round. 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.05 The Mentalist. (R) 1.00 5 News Luncetime. 1.05 Film: Eloise at Christmastime. (2004) 2.50 Film: This Christmas. (2007) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Top 20 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 How to Play Baseball. 7.00 The Gadget Show. 5 News Update. 8.00 Charlie Boorman's Extreme Frontiers; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Film: Step Brothers. (2008) Premiere. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. 11.00 Film: Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story. (2007) 12.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Grey's Anatomy. 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 HouseBusters. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rip Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. (R) 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.30 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. 4.30 Fog It! (R) 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Hollyoaks. 9.00 Young James Herriot. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. National Lottery Update. 10.35 Imagine: The Art of Stand-Up. 11.45 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. (R) 12.15 Film: Surviving Christmas. (2004) Comedy, starring Ben Affleck. 1.40 Weatherview. 1.45 Sign Zone: Frozen Planet. (R) 2.45 MasterChef: The Professionals. (R) 3.45 You've Been Scammed. (R) 4.30 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.20 Film: Herbie Rides Again. (1974) 11.00 Rick Stein's Christmas Special. (R) 12.00 Restoration Home. (R) 1.00 Equestrian. 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.30 Film: The Red Baron. (2008) 4.05 Coast. (R) 5.05 The Rabbits of Skomer. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.00 Celebrity Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) 7.30 Christmas University Challenge. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers' Christmas Party. 9.00 Mock the Week. 9.30 Rev. 11.00 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Adventurer's Guide to Britain. 8.00 The Butlin's Story. 9.00 The Comedy Annual. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. (R) 11.00 The Simpsons. (R) 11.40 Film: Swiss Family Robinson. (1960) 2.10 Film: Cheaper by the Dozen 2. (2005) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Deal Panto. 5.00 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Year the Earth Went Wild. 9.00 King of Christmas Lights. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Syria's Torture Machine. 12.05 Film: Rosemary's Baby. (1968) 2.30 Film: The Conformist. (1970) 4.25 Drifting. (R) 4.35 World War II: The Last Heroes. (R) 5.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show: Five Days of Christmas. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Countrywide Kitchen at Christmas. 8.30 Live Entertainment: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Christmas Special. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. 10.30 Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Dave. (1993) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Perfect Couples. 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.10 Frasier. (R) 9.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.40 The Simpsons. (R) 11.10 The Simpsons. (R) 11.40 Film: Swiss Family Robinson. (1960) 2.10 Film: Cheaper by the Dozen 2. (2005) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Deal Panto. 5.00 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Year the Earth Went Wild. 9.00 King of Christmas Lights. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Syria's Torture Machine. 12.05 Film: Rosemary's Baby. (1968) 2.30 Film: The Conformist. (1970) 4.25 Drifting. (R) 4.35 World War II: The Last Heroes. (R) 5.30 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Christmas: Winnie the Pooh - Stout and Round. 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.05 The Gadget Show. (R) 1.05 5 News Luncetime. 1.10 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 1.35 Film: The Christmas List. (1997) 3.10 Film: Crazy for Christmas. (2005) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Top 20 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Pluto's Sweater. 7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers; 5 News Update. 8.00 Monster Movies; 5 News at 9. 9.00 CSI: Miami. 10.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R) 12.50 SuperCasino. 3.55 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.05 The Gadget Show. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.05 HouseBusters. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rip Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. (R) 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.30 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. 4.30 Fog It! (R) 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Christmas; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. (R) 9.00 The Royle Family. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Match of the Day: National Lottery Update. 12.05 A Question of Sport Christmas Special. (R) 12.35 Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone: See Hear. 1.10 Country Tracks. 2.10 The Hairy Bikers' Christmas Party. (R) 3.10 MasterChef: The Professionals. 4.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.10 Film: Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo. (1977) 11.00 Rick Stein's Christmas Special. (R) 12.00 Restoration Home. (R) 1.00 Equestrian. 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.30 Film: The Red Baron. (2008) 4.05 Coast. (R) 5.05 The Rabbits of Skomer. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.00 Celebrity Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) 7.30 Christmas University Challenge. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers' Christmas Party. 9.00 Mock the Week. 9.30 Rev. 11.00 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Countrywide Kitchen at Christmas. 8.30 Live Entertainment: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Christmas Special. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. 10.30 Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Dave. (1993) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show: Five Days of Christmas. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Countrywide Kitchen at Christmas. 8.30 Live Entertainment: Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Christmas Special. 10.00 ITV News at Ten. 10.30 Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Dave. (1993) 12.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.40 Perfect Couples. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Simpsons. (R) 11.30 Film: Freaky Friday. (1976) 1.25 Film: Oliver Twist. (2005) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Deal Panto. 5.00 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Kirstie's Home for Christmas. 9.00 Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.05 Black Mirror: The Entire History of You. (R) 12.10 Random Acts. 12.15 Music on 4: Live from Abbey Road. 10.00 Example Backstage. (R) 1.30 The Album Chart Show. Spotlight. 1.45 Comedy Lab: Anna & Katy. 2.10 Film: Heat and Dust. (1982) 4.25 World War II: The Last Heroes. 5.20 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Winnie the Pooh - Stout and Gopher. 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers. (R) 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.05 5 News Luncetime. 1.15 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 1.35 Film: The Christmas List. (1997) 3.15 Film: Crazy for Christmas. (2005) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Top 20 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Mickey and the Dwarfs. (R) 7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers; 5 News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Builders. (R) 5 News at 9. 9.00 Film: Bad Santa. (2004) 11.00 Film: The Brothers Solomon. (2007) 12.50 Poker: The Big Game. 1.50 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.00 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 HouseBusters. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rip Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. (R) 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.30 Keeping Up Appearances. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. 4.30 Fog It! (R) 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 Sports Personality of the Year 2011. A review of the year's sporting highlights. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Gavin & Stacey Christmas Special. (R) 11.35 Film: Blades of Glory. (2007) Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. 1.05 Siding With Newt. (R) 1.0 Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's Simple Christmas. (R) 2.10 Rick Stein's Spanish Christmas. (R) 3.10 Countryfile. (R) 4.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.30 Film: Herbie Goes Bananas. (R) 11.00 Rick Stein's Spanish Christmas. (R) 12.00 Restoration Home. (R) 1.00 Weakest Link. 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.30 Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon. (1949) 4.15 Coast. (R) 5.15 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 6.00 Celebrity Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 7.00 Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) 7.30 Christmas University Challenge. 8.00 Lorraine's Last Minute Christmas. 9.00 Film: The Young Victoria. (2009) Premiere. Drama, starring Emily Blunt. 10.40 The Choir. Military Wives. 12.10 Rev. 12.40 Film: While the City Sleeps. (1956) 2.20 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show: Five Days of Christmas. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Lakes at Christmas. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Without You. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Tomorrow Never Dies. (1997) 12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: Serenity. (2005) 4.40 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 Sali Mail. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 Perfect Couples. 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.25 Frasier. (R) 9.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.55 The Simpsons. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 Film: Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. (1989) 1.45 Film: The Princess Diaries. (2001) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Deal Panto. 5.00 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Living with the Amish. 9.00 London's Burning. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.10 Clive Molyet's Quiz Night. (R) 11.55 Random Acts. 12.00 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo Premiere Special. 12.35 Music on 4: Alex Zane Pops Out. (R) 1.05 Comedy Lab: Rick and Peter. 1.35 Comedy Lab: Totipot. 2.05 Happy Endings. 2.50 Southland. 3.35 World War II: The Last Heroes. (R) 4.35 St Elsewhere. (R) 5.25 Brothers & Sisters. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Early to Bed. 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.10 5 News Luncetime. 1.15 Zoo Days. (R) 1.25 Film: Snow. (2004) Christmas comedy, starring Tim Allen. 3.15 Film: Twin Upon a Time. (1998) Fantasy drama, starring Molly Ringwald. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Top 20 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 Disney's 12 Days of Christmas: Food for Feudin'. 7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers; 5 News Update. 8.00 Fairground Attractions; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 It's All About Amy. 11.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.00 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Rip Off Britain. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Real Rescues. (R) 11.30 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.40 Only Fools and Horses. (R) 2.30 Keeping Up Appearances. (R) 3.00 Escape to the Country. 3.45 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. 4.30 Fog It! (R) 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The Two Romnies Sketchbook. 9.00 Have I Got News for You Christmas Special. 9.30 Miranda. (R) 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show Christmas Special. 11.35 The National Lottery: 25 Christmas Millions. 11.50 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. (R) 12.20 EastEnders. 2.20 Weatherview. 2.25 Sign Zone: Lorraine's Last Minute Christmas. (R) 3.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 9.20 Film: Pinocchio. (2002) 11.00 Lorraine's Last Minute Christmas. (R) 12.00 Restoration Home. (R) 1.00 Weakest Link. 1.45 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 2.30 Film: The Heroes of Telemark. (1965) 4.35 Coast. 5.05 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 5.50 Celebrity Eggheads. 6.20 Film: Nativity! (2009) 8.00 Antiques Road Trip Christmas Feast. 9.00 The Many Loves of Miss Jane Austen. 10.00 QI. 10.30 Film: Tamara Drewe. (2010) 12.15 The Rob Brydon Show Xmas Special. (R) 12.45 Film: Merry Christmas. (2005) 2.30 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show: Five Days of Christmas. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 May the Best House Win. 3.00 Midsummer Murders. (R) 4.59 Regional Weather. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chels. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Lakes at Christmas. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. 10.15 ITV News; Weather. 10.45 Regional News; Weather. 10.50 Film: Eyes Wide Shut. (1999) 1.35 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 3.30 Film: The Fog. (1980) 5.05 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.15 The Treacle People. (R) 6.25 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.15 Freshly Squeezed. 7.45 Perfect Couples. 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.40 Frasier. (R) 10.10 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.40 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.10 The Simpsons. (R) 11.40 The Simpsons. (R) 12.10 Film: Three Men and a Cradle. (1987) 2.05 Film: Hocus Pocus. (1993) 4.00 Deal or No Deal. Deal Panto. 5.00 Christmas Coach Trip. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.40 4thought.tv. 7.45 Gordon's Christmas Cooallog - Get Ready. 8.00 Come Dine with Me: Comedians Christmas Special. 9.00 5 News Luncetime. 9.05 Christmas. 10.00 Home for the Holidays. 11.10 The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments. (R) 12.10 The Inbetweeners. (R) 3.10 Random Acts. 3.15 Happy Endings. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.05 Brothers & Sisters. (R) 5.45 Film: Hoot. (2006) Comedy adventure, starring Luke Wilson.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Christmas: Clock Cleaners. 10.00 ThunderCats. 10.35 Meerkat Manor. (R) 11.05 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers. (R) 12.05 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.05 5 News Luncetime. 1.10 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 1.30 Film: Eloise at Christmastime. (2004) 3.15 Film: I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. (2002) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Top 20 Aussie Soap Moments 2011. 6.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) 6.55 The Whalers. 7.00 World's Strongest Man 2011: Qualifiers; 5 News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads; 5 News Update. 9.00 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show. (R) 10.05 Tommy Cooper's Christmas Special. (R) 11.10 Film: Up the Chastity Belt. (1971) Medieval comedy, starring Frankie Howerd. 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.30 Great Scientists. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

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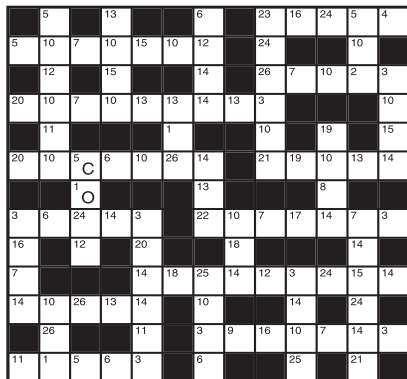
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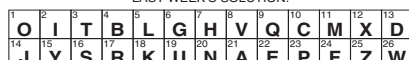
No.147

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Numberless people haven't studied this science (11)
9. Part of the diocese, evidently - or the whole of it (3)
10. Suddenly changes a call-note (3,2,4)
11. It's not becoming mixed up in the paint (5)
13. Everybody in disorganised side takes a long time in moving (7)
14. A shocking rise in my unhappy state (6)
16. The Book of Numbers used by church-goers! (6)
18. Unusual terrain for a coach (7)
19. Severe end to a ship (5)
20. The nicest day for a group of companies (9)
21. He's a fool to carry the burden (3)
22. Old-time stock-breeders! (11)

Down

2. Yes, it's interesting the egotist, we hear (3)
- 3 & 15Dn. Agonising enough to cause cardiac damage (5-7)
4. Sickness produces a word of uncertainty about the boy (6)
5. To balance the accounts completely (7)
6. The company with engines in need of modification send packages to him (9)
7. A defect that will prevent one from making direct observations (11)
8. Pedigrees in animals will show brutality (11)
12. He prefers to be a man without spirit (9)
15. See 3 Down
17. To invest with ministerial responsibility (6)
19. He is encompassed by fixed bed-covering (5)
21. It's vital to keep taking it in, but it's a strain! (3)

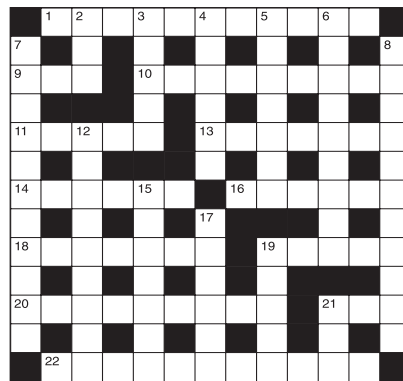
Quick Clues:

Across

1. Rigidly laid down (4,3,4)
9. Sick (3)
10. Tempting (9)
11. Way in (5)
13. Philosopher (7)
14. Constricted (6)
16. Bury (6)
18. Melancholy (7)
19. Maxim (5)
20. Height (9)
21. Enemy (3)
22. Observers of the skies (11)

Down

2. Grow sick (3)
3. Swarth (5)
4. Nakedness (6)
5. Falsehood (7)
6. Projects (6,3)
7. Children's game (4,3,4)
8. Greatly distressed (11)
12. Fatigue (9)
15. Alfresco (4,3)
17. Allot (6)
19. Musical note (5)
21. Distant (3)



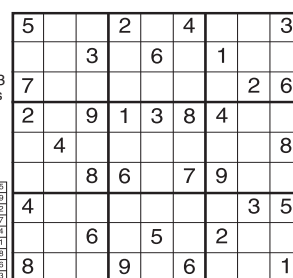
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Dual; 3 Proposer; 9 Plotous; 10 Phase; 11 Light-hearted; 13 Cheque; 15 Leader; 17 Failing glass; 20 Eaten; 21 Put down; 22 Incisors; 23 Were. Down: 1 Derelict; 2 Among; 4 Russet; 5 Paper-weights; 6 Seaweed; 7 Rues; 8 Contour lines; 12 Presence; 14 Elastic; 16 Sniper; 18 Alone; 19 Peri. QUICK - Across: 1 Fall; 3 Academic; 9 Unlucky; 10 Safer; 11 Fortuitously; 13 Leader; 15 Usurer; 17 Discourteous; 20 Clean; 21 Isolate; 22 Entirety; 23 Left. Down: 1 Four-fold; 2 Idler; 4 Coyote; 5 Disquisition; 6 Muffler; 7 Cure; 8 Acquiescence; 12 Prospect; 14 Aliment; 16 Quaint; 18 Orate; 19 Ache.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



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CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is P. Pumpkin, spinach, parsnip, all vegetables.

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QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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HAPPY FEET 2 (U) - 2D - FLS Saturday to Thursday 11.40	ARTHUR CHRISTMAS - (U) Friday 13.15 15.30 Saturday to Thursday 11.05 13.15 15.30
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS CHIPWRECKED - (U) - FLS Friday 13.20 15.40 18.00 20.15 Saturday to Thursday 11.00 13.20 15.40 18.00 20.20	NEW YEAR'S EVE (12A) - FLS All week 17.40 20.30
PUSS IN BOOTS (U) 2D - FLS All week 18.10	KIDS CLUB TIN TIN - (PG) - 2D Saturday to Thursday 11.50
PUSS IN BOOTS (U) 3D - FLS All week 16.10	

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The top property guide for Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster

Hard road to buy your first home



Melissa is thrilled with her property at Henley Grange, a Taylor Wimpey development

Huge deposits and high house prices, combined with the rising cost of living, can make getting on to the property ladder a daunting, if not impossible, task for first time buyers.

This was the situation that Melissa Hadley (26) from Halesowen found herself in before she came across the FirstBuy scheme*, on offer at Henley Grange, a Taylor Wimpey development in the area.

Melissa comments: "The idea of buying my own home was always a far off notion for me because of the high deposits mortgage lenders were asking for. What made things even more out of reach was that I was looking to buy on my own, meaning I'd have to come up with the full deposit by myself."

"I'd decided that when the time came I'd want to buy at Henley Grange, so I thought I'd go and see what might be available to me in the future. Julie, the sales executive, was incredibly helpful and gave me an extensive pack containing information about the development and the schemes available to help people in my position. When I came to the section on first time buyers and the FirstBuy scheme, I was astounded by how little deposit was needed, less than £5,000, and thinking this was too good to be true, I went back to find out more."

Deposit

As would be the case with most first time buyers, having to pay just a five per cent deposit was what attracted Melissa to the scheme. She continues: "I really couldn't believe all I needed was a five per cent deposit to buy an apartment at Henley Grange. If I didn't have this option available to me I would have had to rent for another five to six years which, when you're itching to own your own place, can be very depressing. Also, house buying was all new to me so I had a lot of questions about FirstBuy, the most important being when would I have to start paying back the equity loan that is jointly provided by the HCA and Taylor Wimpey? The fact that you've got until the end of your mortgage term to pay it back is incredible, as that certainly gives me plenty of time to save."

With the help of Taylor Wimpey and FirstBuy, Melissa was able to choose her dream home, a two bedroom Linley apartment, and move into it within just a few weeks!

She added: "The sales team at Henley Grange have been amazing throughout the whole process and really made sure I was aware of every last detail of the scheme, which on first glance can be quite confusing. The development is stunning and I haven't settled for something less than I wanted just because I'm a first time buyer. I can't believe I didn't know about FirstBuy sooner and will certainly be telling all of my friends about it."

The government funded FirstBuy scheme* works through a joint loan of 20 per cent from the Homes and

Communities Agency (HCA) and Taylor Wimpey, which means that eligible purchasers only need put down a five per cent deposit and obtain a 75 per cent loan-to-value mortgage. The loan is repayable at the end of the mortgage term or when the property is sold. To be eligible, purchasers must be first time buyers and the total household earning should be less than £60,000.

Henley Grange comprises a collection of 154 mews-style homes and contemporary apartments located within the established residential area of Belle Vale. The development enjoys a semi-rural feel with the River Stour close by and attractive woodland and public open space to the rear.

For further information visit the marketing suite open Thursday to Monday from 10 - 5pm or call 0845 026 3852. Alternatively log on to www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/henleygrange

● Subject to affordability and circumstances on selected plots only.

● Terms and conditions apply and full details will be provided on request. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



The low deposit required attracted Melissa Hadley, 26, to the Taylor Wimpey property development

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HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen. Briefly comprising of: Large Open Plan Living Area with Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rental Includes Electricity

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CRADLEY HEATH, KING STREET

A well presented top floor modern apartment, ideally located close to all local amenities and transport links, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking

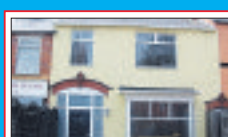
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VW's new angle for the Passat

Check your car before that journey



The new Volkswagen Alltrack – based on the Passat Estate with off-road extras

VOLKSWAGEN'S new Passat Alltrack, made its debut at the 2011 Tokyo Motor Show.

The Alltrack is based on the existing Passat Estate, adding the 4Motion four-wheel drive system and a raised ride height to give off-roadability.

Other features include matt chrome roof rails, window surrounds, grille and exterior mirror casings.

Although the new model is the same

length and width as a standard Passat Estate, the suspension is raised to increase ground clearance from 135 to 165 mm.

This also improves the ramp break-away angle (significant when crossing the crest of a hill) from 9.5 to 12.8 degrees.

Restyled front and rear bumpers increase the approach angle from 13.5 to 16 degrees. The departure angle

benefits similarly, increasing from 11.9 to 13.6 degrees.

In the UK, the Passat Alltrack will be available as a 2.0-litre TDI 140PS with six-speed manual gearbox or a 2.0-litre TDI 170 PS with six-speed DSG transmission.

Retailers in the UK are expected to start taking orders for the new car in April, with first deliveries scheduled for July.

DRIVING abroad in winter poses many challenges, so if you're sloping off for a skiing holiday, make sure you get there safely.

Even if you're staying at home these tips will be useful – just think back to last year's alpine British landscape.

My first tips are for all drivers, whether you are going overseas or not. Before you set off make sure your car is in good working order.

Check all your lights are working, your washer fluid is topped up with screen wash (pure water will freeze), and that your tyres have enough tread.

Make sure your car is loaded with everything you might need in the event of a breakdown, or long delays – a jacket, food and water, boots, ice scraper, the number of your breakdown provider, torch, shovel, and any regular medication you take.

Remember to charge your phone and check that your breakdown cover applies abroad.

If you are driving somewhere there is likely to be snow – like high altitude ski resorts or the Scottish Highlands – you need to think about carrying snow chains or socks, or switching to winter tyres.

Practice fitting them before you go – you don't want to be struggling with them for the first time in the freezing cold. Many continental resorts will want snow chains and in some places they are compulsory so check these out before you travel.

When you're on the move keep your speed low, but maintain momentum where possible.

If you have to stop, select second gear to start off on snow or ice to avoid wheelspin. When you don't know where you're going, looking further ahead is even more important.

Driving on the right-hand side of the road needs extra concentration. Every time you get in the car, remind yourself of where you are driving.

This is especially significant when there isn't much traffic around to give you a cue.

Preparation, as always, is the key. Buy a good road atlas and plan your route carefully, ahead of time, and check the driving rules for where you are going, plus any countries you are travelling through to.

Similarly make sure you have the correct equipment for the countries you're visiting.

If you're driving in Europe, a first aid kit, reflective tabard and spare light bulbs must be carried.

To help drivers the IAM has a new website, drivingadvice.org.uk, with traffic updates and weather forecasts.

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LOST - Greyhound Staffie cross Male name of Drake, no collar or chip Bilston area, on Monday, December 5. 07825 517872.

LOST - Small brown dog, similar to Jack Russell, Cannock Road, Westcroft area, since Thursday December 8. 07775 029108.

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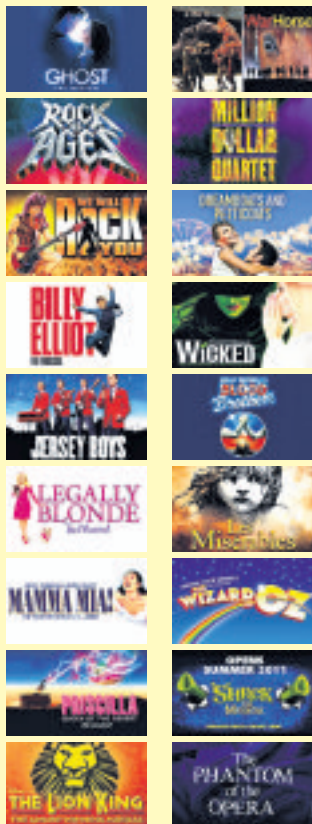
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sport

Double sign up for Heathens



James White-Williams and Darryl Ritchings

JAMES White-Williams has joined Dudley Heathens from Newport for the 2012 National League season.

The Welshman celebrated his 26th birthday last week and will start the new campaign on a 4.53 average.

He is joined at the former Cradley club by 2011 Rider of the Year Darryl Ritchings, who looks set to start next term in a reserve slot. White-Williams said: "It's

great for me to secure a move like this and my intention is to show everyone what I can really achieve.

"I was doing well last season until I suffered an injury and that knocked me back but, with a full year ahead, I know I can put my average up."

"Dudley is a club everyone wants to ride for because of their brilliant support and I'm delighted to have the opportu-

nity." Teenager Ritchings is equally delighted to be back for a second full season of league action.

He said: "I'm buzzing about next season, to be honest I'm still shocked by the Rider of the Year award. The team is looking great and we want to go out and win things next season."

Heathens chairman Nigel Pearson said: "James is a late developer who has ambitions to make a career out of speedway."

YELTZ HOME WIN DRY SPELL ENDED

HALESOWEN TOWN 3 BRIDGWATER TOWN 1

HALESOWEN recovered from conceding an early goal to record their first home league victory for two months, leapfrogging their in-form opponents in the process.

Bridgwater caught the Yeltz defence napping just 90 seconds into the game when captain Matt Townley pumped the ball into the area for Josh Turner to flick a header into the net past goalkeeper Paul Evans.

Michael McGrath went close with a free kick and Justin Nisbett lobbed just wide as Halesowen started to get a foothold in the game.

They were enjoying the majority of possession and were inches away from equalising when Lee Chilton's volley cannoned off the crossbar.

The Yeltz pressure finally brought an equaliser in the 32nd minute when Nisbett sped down the left and crossed for Jones to shoot past Hutchings and register his first goal for Halesowen.

Corner

Bridgwater keeper Sam Hutchings then denied Nisbett twice in two minutes before Evans was called upon to deny Danny Wring at the other end.

Halesowen took the lead four minutes before the interval when Chilton's corner flew straight through the penalty area and Brendan Kelly hammered home off the underside of the bar.

Straight after the interval Halesowen came racing out of the blocks with Nisbett blasting over the bar, Jones shooting at Hutchings and the keeper saving James Loney's header from a corner.

However, despite controlling the second half, Halesowen still needed to survive a couple of defensive scares with Townley's corner leading to a goalmouth scramble and Evans doing well to claw away a teasing cross.

With Halesowen hungry for more goals, Chilton chipped inches wide from 20 yards after shrugging off two defenders, before Nisbett saw an effort disallowed for offside.

But Nisbett did make it a deserved 3-1 to Halesowen by chipping over Hutchings to end a delightful move and secure the three points.

Halesowen have two home games over the festive period, hosting Stourport Swifts on Boxing Day and Mangotsfield United on New Year's Eve.

Both matches kick off at 3pm.

Cricketer Roy dies, 89

A former Lancashire and England bowler who had lived in Kidderminster since 1961 has died aged 89. Roy Tattersall was born at Tonge Moor near Bolton and was signed by Lancashire in 1948. His first full season was in 1950 and he helped Lancashire to become joint-winners with Surrey of the County Championship. Roy also played for his country 16 times. He was appointed professional at Kidderminster Cricket Club in 1961. He is survived by his wife Phyll, and his three daughters. The funeral is at 11am at Stourbridge Crematorium on December 21.

Lions in winter victory

Sedgley White Lions 3 Warley Borough 0

Sedgley started the brighter and went 1-0 up after 15 minutes when Reece Colley found the back of the net. Soon after the hosts doubled their lead when Colley turned provider, laying the ball on for Brad Ormerod to finish nicely. Both sides created chances after the break but Sedgley sealed the points when Colley squared to Keivan Kimberley who made no mistake in beating the keeper.

Tivdale game is abandoned

Tivdale's Midland Alliance clash against Rochester was abandoned after seven minutes on Saturday after Tivdale's Adam Simkiss broke his leg. The full-back broke both his tibia and fibula and has had the leg pinned and plated in Russells Hall Hospital.

Gornal closes the gap on their rivals

Gornal Athletic 3 Black Country Rangers 1

SECOND-PLACED Gornal closed the gap on West Midlands Premier leaders Black Country Rangers with victory in this table-topping clash at Garden Walk.

Although Gornal had the best of the chances in a goalless first half, it was the visitors who had the ball in the net first.

A long ball found Liam Hughes in behind the Gornal defence and he fired past James Pemberton but saw the effort disallowed for offside.

Athletic's first chance came on 22 minutes when Kristian Green picked up the ball just inside the Rangers half and was allowed to run without a serious challenge before forcing Richard Kennedy into a stop with his legs.

Ten minutes before the break a Mike Perks shot was flicked on by the head of Green but the ball went just wide of the post.

Gornal's final chance of the half fell to Seb Craven. A Richard Young cross wasn't cleared and the ball went out to Lee Wherton whose shot was saved by the keeper, but the referee blew for a foul as Craven followed up.

Gornal continued to dominate possession at the start of the second half and a Young cross hit the far post with Kennedy beaten before being cleared by the Rangers defence.

However, on 55 minutes, against the run of play, the visitors took the lead. Hughes played in Alex Hammond down the left side of the area and he fired across Pemberton and into the far corner.

It took Gornal just five minutes to regain parity, a Wherton corner was headed back to him by the Rangers defence, his return ball into the area was met by Connor Gater who headed home unchallenged.

Gornal now took total control of the game and edged in front on 70 minutes. A Young pass down the right found Green and his low cross was met by substitute Calum Martin who tapped home. The home side were now comfortable in possession and 10 minutes later made it 3-1.

Substitute Matt Martin received the ball on the left side of midfield, he ran inside across two defenders and hit a



Marvin Nisbett fires in a shot for Athletic

powerful shot to score his 11th goal of the season, despite the efforts of Kennedy in the Rangers goal.

Gornal never looked threatened by Rangers in the final 20 minutes and comfortably earned a vital three points.

The result leaves Gornal eight points behind Rangers but with five games in hand.



Black Country Rangers' Shane Parkes powers a header in from a corner.

Pictures - Nigel Cliff

Nervous end to match as The Glassboys hold on to win

Boys League

Stourbridge Glassboys 3 Halas Hawks East 2

Halas Hawks U9s East travelled to Stourbridge Glassboys and a strong start by both sides saw the Glassboys take the advantage to go one up. A deserved equaliser minutes later through a Tommy Swancott goal looked like taking the game into a half time stalemate, but two quick goals by Stourbridge put Halas on the back foot with the Glassboys leading 3-1 at the break. Constant pressure by Halas in the second half was rewarded by a second Tommy Swancott goal, taking the game into a nervous finish with Stourbridge narrowly holding on to win 3-2. Man of the match was Tommy Swancott.

Halas Hawks West 1 Wolves Olympic 1

This U9s West cup match against Wolverhampton Olympic was one of the most entertaining games of the season between two evenly matched teams. Halas went one down but equalised through Harvey Brookes. With no further scoring, the match went into penalties which saw Wolverhampton go through. Man of the match went to goalkeeper, James Exall. Wolves won on penalties.

Halas Hawks East 9 Oldswinford Youth West 1

The U10s East powered into the last eight of the league cup with a strong all round performance against Oldswinford Youth West. Halas goals came from Oliver Miller (3), Tom Baker (2), Rickio Fairin-Hall (2) Charlie Greening and an own goal. Man of the match awards went to Oliver Miller and Tom Baker.

Bearwood 3 Halas Hawks 1

The U11s lost 3-1 to Bearwood Sports with their goal coming from Adam Bowen. Man of the match went to Shaddad Dael.

Kewford Eagles 0 Halas Hawks 5

A Nathan Postin hat trick and two from Connor Fisher saw the U13s progress to the quarter finals of the league cup against a plucky Kewford side. Halas were on the front foot from the off and were creating plenty of chances. The pressure paid off with Halas scoring two before the break followed by three in the second half.

Halas Hawks 1 Withymoor Colts East 4

The U14s hosted top of the table Withymoor Colts, who scored three quick goals within the first 15 minutes. Halas fought back and had chances which they failed to convert.

The second half saw Halas reduce the deficit with a goal through Liam Holmes but Withymoor then increased their lead to take all three points. MoM was Jack Guest.

Trysell 1 Halas Hawks East 7

The U15s East recorded their biggest win of the season by defeating Enville 7-1. With the rain pouring down the lads made use of the greasy surface with some excellent passing play. Goals came from Dan Willetts (2), Rhys Boswell, Mitchell Tomlinson, Josh March, Jon Rizzo and Nathan Collins.

Oldswinford Youth 1 Halas 6

The U17s took on Oldswinford Youth in dreadful weather conditions and took a comfortable two goal lead into the break. Halas took charge in the second half and built on top of a good first half performance to produce a further four goals. A deserved consolation goal by Oldswinford made the final score 6-1. Goalscorers were Mitch Wells (2), Matt Ross (2), Kieran Lillies and Adam Hodges.

Ladies

Halas Hawks 1 Continental 3

Halas Hawks Ladies entertained Continental and went down to an early goal. They then piled on the pressure but saw Continental score two further breakaway goals just before half time. The second half saw them again having the lion's share of the play but failing to find the net until Gemma Colledge scored to give them hope, but Continental hung on to win 3-1.

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SHAW STONE SURFACES LTD

Tel: 0121 503 0817

Unit 11, Mucklow Hill Trading Estate, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 8DF
www.shawstonesurfaces.co.uk email: sales@shawstonesurfaces.co.uk

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